

## D. Local Government Investment in the Arts

RTS designed a short survey to capture the involvement of local government organizations in arts activity across the state of North Carolina. The survey was available online and in hard copy form and sent to 925 local government organizations which were identified in the NC Arts Council database. This database contained both general local government organizations (city and county government) as well as particular divisions of local government (i.e., parks and recreation departments or libraries). The survey had a response rate of about 10 percent, about average for this type of survey; however, the results must be interpreted under the assumption that on the whole, respondents are more active in the arts than non-responders.

The survey was brief, and asked several types of questions about local governments' involvement in the arts:

- programs and arts activities in which the local government entity is involved,
- funding given by or received by the entity to engage in arts activity,
- the number of employees (FTE) working on arts-related programs,
- organizations with which the government entity partners to develop or deliver arts-related programs.

The overwhelming majority of organizations—91 percent—that responded to the survey indicated that their organization is involved in the arts in some form. Only nine local governments reported not having any involvement in the arts. Most of the responses came from organizations in the central part of the state. Although the responses differ, the overall trends between the three areas are the same. The most common form of involvement for these organizations is through working with other organizations in the local area: non-profit organizations, other public sector organizations or private organizations. About one-third of the organizations reported funding arts programming; another third reported receiving local funds for programming. The results of the survey are summarized in Table 23.